

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 142563
ORIGIN ARA-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /005 R

66011

DRAFTED BY: ARA/AND/E:JAALLITTO

APPROVED BY: ARA/AND/E:JAALLITTO

-----015166 201746Z /53

P 201633Z JUN 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 142563

FOLLOWING REPEAT QUITO 4043 ACTION STATE JUNE 17.

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 4043

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: EWWT, EC

SUBJ: SHIPPING NEGOTIATIONS

REFS: A) STATE 139089; B) STATE 80108; C) QUITO 2653

1. HECTOR CALDERON OF CCT IN THE US CALLED EMB ON JUNE 17 TO REPORT THE CONCLUSION OF AN AGREEMENT NEGOTIATED BY ECUADOREAN MERCHANT MARINE AND LAWRENCE BERMAN, WHO HAS RETURNED TO THE US. BOTH PARTIES HAVE YET TO RATIFY THE AGREEMENT, DESCRIBED BY BERMAN AS A 6-MONTH SOLUTION TO CCT'S PROBLEMS. WHILE CALDERON WAS RELUCTANT TO DISCUSS DETAILS OF THE AGREEMENT, HE DID MENTION THAT IT INCLUDED TRAINING ASSISTANCE IN ROLL-ON/ROLL-OFF CARGO TRANSPORT. CALDERON EXPECTS RESOLUTIONS 3/77 AND 6/77 TO BE IMPLEMENTED AS SOON AS THE ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT WITH TRANSNAVE IS RATIFIED. CCT, ACCORDING TO CALDERON WILL CONTINUE TO OPPOSE (POSSIBLY THROUGH THE FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION) RESOLUTION 6/77 IF IT GOES INTO EFFECT WITH THE SHIPPING CONFERENCE CLAUSE.

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WM CHARGE RAISED THE CCT ISSUE ON JUNE 17 WITH AMB MONTEVERDE, THE FONMINS DIRGEN FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS. MONTEVERDE TOOK NOTE OF THE REPRESENTATION, STATED THAT EMB VIEWS HAD BEEN PASSED TO APPROPRIATE GOE AGENCIES, AND SUGGESTED THAT EMB COMMUNICATE DIRECTLY WITH THE MERCHANT MARINE.

3. COMMENT: PREVIOUS EMB REPRESENTATIONS TO THE GOE SEEM TO

HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO A POSTPONEMENT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTIONS 3/77 AND 6/77, WHICH WERE DUE TO ENTER INTO FORCE IN LATE APRIL. THE FACT THAT BERMAN CONDUCTED NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE MERCHANT MARINE MAY ALSO BE THE PARTIAL RESULT OF EMB EFFORTS. AS REPORTED IN REFTEL B), TRANSA NAVE WAS ORIGINALLY OPPOSED TO ASSOCIATION WITH CCT, BUT THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT WAS SUBSEQUENTLY BROACHED TO THE CHARGE BY ADM OLMEDO (SEE REFTEL C). EMB FEELS THAT CCT MAY JEOPAVRADIZE ITS POSITION BY REGARDING A SUCCESSFUL ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT AS A STOP-GAP MEASURE PENDING REVOCATION OF THE SHIPPING CONFERENCE CLAUSE IN RESOLUTION 6/77.

THE GOE MAY FEEL THAT, HAVING PERMITTED CCT TO ASSOCIATE WITH TRANSAVE, NO FURTHER CONCESSIONS ARE REQUIRED.

4. EMB WILL REPORT FURTHER ON THE STATUS OF THE RESOLUTIONS AND GOE ATTITUDE TOWARD THE DISPUTE. CORR UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MARINE TRANSPORTATION, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 20-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE142563
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: ARA/AND/E:JAALLITTO
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770219-0986
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770639/aaaabhyc.tel
Line Count: 84
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: bf68e779-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 139089, 77 STATE 80108, 77 QUITO 2653
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04-Oct-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2091889
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SHIPPING NEGOTIATIONS
TAGS: EWWT, EC, TRANSWAY, CCT, TRANSNAVES
To: GUAYAQUIL
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/bf68e779-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009